

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 189139

15 R  
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 /025 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RMGIBSON:MGH  
APPROVED BY EA:RHMILLER  
EA/TB:GBROBERTS  
EA/P:MSMITH (DRAFT)  
D/HA/ORM:RFDOOR (DRAFT)  
L/M:KEMALMBORG (DRAFT)

----- 077095

R 301639Z JUL 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189139

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BM

SUBJECT: BURMESE COUP PLOT: PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: RANGOON 2608

1. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE DESIRABILITY OF PREPARING PRESS GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDING DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. IF THE NEED ARISES, WE INTEND TO USE YOUR DRAFT GUIDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

2. Q. THERE IS A REPORT THAT ONE OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE COUP PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT NE WIN ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BUT WAS TURNED DOWN. IS THAT TRUE?

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT A MAN CLAIMING TO BE A BURMESE ARMY OFFICER CAME TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189139

THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 2 TO

REQUEST ASYLUM. WHILE NOT REFUSED ADMISSION OR TEMPORARY REFUGE, THE MAN WAS INFORMED THAT HE WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ASYLUM UNDER U.S. GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.

3. Q. IT IS REPORTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR TURNED THE MAN OVER TO THE BURMESE AUTHORITIES. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. THAT IS NOT CORRECT. ON BEING TOLD THAT HE COULD NOT BE GRANTED ASYLUM, THE MAN CHOSE NOT TO REMAIN IN THE AMBASSADOR'S COMPOUND, AND THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT SEEK TO DETAIN HIM.

4. Q. DID THE EMBASSY INFORM THE BURMESE AUTHORITIES?

A. THE AMBASSADOR DID INFORM THE AUTHORITIES ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING. AT THE TIME (THE NIGHT OF JULY 2), THE AMBASSADOR WAS UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE MAN'S BONAFIDES. IF THE MAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, THEN BY HIS OWN ACCOUNT THE AUTHORITIES WERE ALREADY AWARE OF ANY THREAT HE MIGHT REPRESENT AND WERE TAKING PRECAUTIONS.

5. Q. WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR THE GUB TO BE INFORMED?

A. IN VIEW OF THE MAN'S APPROACH TO THE EMBASSY, IF THERE WAS A PLOT, AND IF THE AUTHORITIES KNEW OF IT, THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT WANT THE GUB TO WRONGLY ASSUME U.S. INVOLVEMENT.

6. Q. DID THE AMBASSADOR'S INFORMATION LEAD TO THE MAN'S APPREHENSION AND ARREST?

A. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT DISCLOSE THE MAN'S IDENTITY OR POSITION. THE AUTHORITIES WERE ALREADY AWARE OF THE PLOT AND APPEARED TO KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTITY.

7. Q. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON ASYLUM?

A. THE REGULATIONS SAY, "A DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189139

OFFICER SHALL NOT EXTEND ASYLUM TO PERSONS OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICER'S OFFICIAL OR PERSONAL HOUSEHOLD. REFUGE MAY BE AFFORDED TO UNINVITED PERSONS WHO ARE IN DANGER OF SERIOUS HARM, AS FROM MOB VIOLENCE, BUT ONLY FOR THE PERIOD DURING WHICH ACTIVE DANGER CONTINUES."  
KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, POLITICAL ASYLUM, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE189139  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RMGIBSON:MGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760296-0228, D760296-0074  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976073/aaaaackj.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 RANGOON 2608  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BURMESE COUP PLOT: PRESS GUIDANCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PFOR, BM, US  
**To:** RANGOON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006